
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

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THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT

01/01/2005 - 03/31/2005

World Wildlife Fund

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Southwestern Amazon Moist Forest Ecoregion

Valorization and Understanding of the Protected Areas of the Amboró - Madidi Corridor (CAM) in Order to Facilitate their Conservation

Third Quarterly Report (January 1ST – March 31st, 2005)

Strategic Goals and Objectives

Goal:

Create a favorable climate among the local population of the Amboró-Madidi Corridor (CAM) by favoring their participation in the process for the creation and management of protected areas, their education, information and environmental awareness and the joint visualization of the natural attributes of the protected areas in relation to the environmental services and its consequent potential to support sustainable economic activities for the region in which they are found.

Objectives:

- **Conservation:** Achieve the effective support from local communities and regional authorities for the Altamachi Protected Area ensuring its confirmation and achieving its declaration (recognition of the national government through a Supreme Decree). The AP Altamachi was created by the “Prefectura de Cochabamba” under a scientific model of identification and characterization as well as a participatory process of consultation. With this, it is intended that one of the last and best preserved areas of the Yungas in Bolivia is placed under definitive protection and management, avoiding the advancement of deforestation within its limits.
- **Joint Planning:** Achieve the joint participation of the authorities and civil society in order to confront the threat of social and political opposition aimed at protected areas through the organization of joint activities and the search of synergies for individual activities:
 - **CAM Coordinating Committee (CCCAM):** Ensuring its continuity as an organism for discussion and technical planning and the gradual inclusion of additional authorities (Land Tenure, Popular Participation and municipalities when and if possible) and other local actors converting them in a forum for critical review and coordination.
- **Education, information and environmental awareness:** Consolidate the management of the Amboró Interpretive Center as a partnership model between protected areas and municipalities and as sources of education, information and environmental awareness for the local population.

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- **Visualization of potential for sustainable economic activities:** Carry out a study regarding the value of the environmental services of the water forthcoming from two protected areas within the CAM that neighbor important cities for their valorization among the local population and to offer information and ideas regarding sustainable economic alternatives for the users (municipalities, “regantes”, businessmen and general population).

Collaborators/Partners

- * SERNAP - Servicio Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (National Service of Protected Areas)
- * DGB - Dirección General de Biodiversidad (General Directorate for Biodiversity)
- * FAN - Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza (Friends of Nature Foundation)
- * Tropico - Asociación Boliviana para la Conservación (Bolivian Conservation Association)
- * ICIB - Instituto para la Conservación e Investigación de la Biodiversidad (Institute for Biodiversity Conservation and Research)
- * CIDEDER - Centro Integrado de Defensa Ecológica y Desarrollo Rural (Integrated Center of Ecological Defense and Rural Development)
- * FUNDESNA - Fundación para el Desarrollo del Sistema Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (Foundation for the Development of the Protected Areas System)
- * REMA - Rescate en tus manos (Rescue in your Hands)
- * PNC Parque Nacional Carrasco (Carrasco National Park)
- * APA Área Protegida Amboró (Amboro Protected Area)
- * CI - Conservation International
- * WCS - Wildlife Conservation Society
- * TNC – The Nature Conservancy
- * CSF – Conservation Strategy Fund
- * Fundación Natura Bolivia – Foundation Natura Bolivia
- * Local stakeholders – Prefectures (Office for Natural Resources and the Environment - Cochabamba), Municipalities (Municipality of Buena Vista) and Organizaciones Territoriales de Base - OTB (Local Community Organizations, e.g., OPIM).
- * CODAC – Comité de Defensa del Medio Ambiente de Cochabamba (Committee for the Defense of the Environment from Cochabamba)
- * Fundación Bosques (Forest Foundation)
- * TCO Mosekene (Mosekene Indigenous Communal Land)
- * SNAP - Sistema Nacional de Areas Protegidas (National System for Protected Areas)

Summary: Period 10/01/03—09/30/04

Results by Objective and Activity

Objective I: Creating a favorable working environment by raising public-local awareness regarding the Area's importance and in this way, supporting the process for the Supreme Decree ratifying the Altamachi Protected Area created by the Departmental Council of Cochabamba.

Under this objective, the following actions were planned: a) Institutional support for CIDEDER, b) Support for the improvement of relations between promoters of the PA and neighboring populations, c) Carrying out a baseline diagnosis regarding the social conflicts and thus be able to clearly identify the information needs for conflict resolution, d) Hiring of two (2) farming and animal husbandry technicians as outreach and /or environmental promoters, e) A radio information and dissemination campaign regarding the values of the PA but also including programs of technical interest for the local population, f) Support the process to obtain legal paperwork.

Between January and March there were significant changes regarding the Altamachi Protected Area. In summary, a group of representatives from the communities neighboring the Protected Area, took advantage of social protests in Cochabamba and presented a request for the abolition of the Prefectural Resolution (132/02) that created the Altamachi Protected Area. The argument used to present this derogation was: a) The Protected Area encompassed land within their communities b) the proposal was not consulted.

In order to respond to this demand, joint efforts were carried out with CIDEDER and the Prefecture (Office for Natural Resources and the Environment and Legal Department), to write a technical and legal report supporting the creation as well as responding to their demand of being excluded from the Protected Area. However, the attitude of the leaders put in evidence that their ill will towards the Protected Area was purely political and that they had no intention or willingness to discuss and arrive at a consensus regarding alternatives to conflict.

Under this scenario of political pressure and lack of dialogue the Altamachi Protected Area was derogated through a Prefectural Resolution (054/05) on March 1, 2005.

In view of this new situation, meetings were held with the Prefecture and other organizations involved with the Altamachi Protected Area such as CIDEDER, DRRNMA, SERNAP represented by the Director for Toro Toro Protected Area, and "Forest Foundation", and the following was agreed upon in support of a new strategy:

1. Work on the management of natural resources with the communities of Totolima and Carmen Pampa, located within Altamachi and which are in favor of the existence of the Protected Area.
2. Collaborate with the Mosetene TCO, neighboring Altamachi, as a means to control the illegal logging which is currently the main conservation threat faced by the proposed Altamachi Protected Area. In addition, the possibilities of supporting forest management initiatives in the Mosetene TCO will be analyzed, as a way to stimulate legal income producing timber activities.
3. Support the Forest Superintendence in developing activities in the area.
4. Develop a communication strategy aimed at obtaining support from the urban population for the Altamachi Protected Area, based on the importance of the Area for the provision of water for the city.
5. Establish a coordinating entity to lead the environmental opinion in Cochabamba but that is also the result of joint institutional efforts.

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6. Support the Prefecture's Office for Natural Resources and the Environment so that in accordance with what was established in the Prefectural Resolution (054/05) derogating the Altamachi Protected Area, they bring together the inter-institutional commission that is responsible for discussing and agreeing upon measures to ensure the protection and sound management of Altamachi.

It was agreed that the first three activities would be carried out by CIDEDER, which at the same time provides continuity to their actions in the area where they were already developing activities. Points 4 and 5 would be led by Forest Foundation. The activities referred to in the last point depend upon the Prefecture's leadership.

Under this context, the activities originally foreseen to achieve this objective (mentioned in the first paragraph) will be adjusted, in the following manner: points a), b) and d) will be carried out through 1, 2 and 3 under the new strategy. Point e) will be considered under 4 and 5 but with more emphasis in Cochabamba. Point c), on the other hand, will be modified to strengthen 4 and 5. Point f) will not be implemented because it is not a suitable time to do so; however it will be maintained in force with 6.

CIDEDER has already sent us their proposal based upon the new strategy framework for Altamachi and it is expected that a contract will be elaborated.

Objective II: Participation in the planning and participation process:

Activity 2.1.: CAM Coordinating Committee (CCCAM)

Mr. Edwin Camacho was re-hired as the CCCAM facilitator after efforts failed to identify a new person. This decision was taken at the request of Mr. Jorge Mariaca, Director for the DGB, and in consideration that there was no other available candidate much less one that fulfilled the position requirements. Mr. Camacho will dedicate his time exclusively to the facilitation and coordination of the CCCAM.

The outstanding aspects regarding the terms of reference for the position of Facilitator for the CCCAM are the following.

Duties

1. Ensure the functioning of the CCCAM and facilitate the participation and leadership of the DGB and SERNAP in the CAM Coordinating Committee.
2. Support the elaboration of the conceptual proposal for the CAM with the organizations that make up the Coordinating Committee and with other organizations linked to the CAM (elaborate the conceptual and operational basis in order to generate opportunities to discuss the establishment of corridors).
3. Carry out workshops to establish a conceptual vision of the CAM and define mechanisms to incorporate the concept within different governmental entities. This includes workshops for:
 - a) Validate map indicating areas important for conservation.
 - b) Design and validate an official policy regarding corridors.

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- c) Identify opportunities for articulation of activities carried out by the various governmental offices.
 - d) Validate the DGB's Plurianual plan.

4. Analyze information relevant to the CAM and systematize experiences.

Products

- a) An official document regarding the policy for Biodiversity Corridors.
- b) The topic of corridors is articulated with the different governmental organizations (unit for land tenure, protected areas, watershed office).
- c) Initial coordinating activities for the implementation of the policy on corridors have been carried out in pilot municipalities of the CAM.
- d) Plurianual plan is validated for the DGB and incorporates the corridors.

With the hiring of the facilitator the first CCCAM meeting for the year was held. The facilitator presented a work plan as well as a structure to develop a policy for corridors within the Vice Ministry for Natural Resources and the Environment.

Objective III: Education, information, and environmental awareness:.

Activity 3.1.: Hiring of staff to run the Center and guarantee its operations.

This activity includes actions ranging from the hiring of staff for the administration of the interpretive Center to the organization and planning of visits to the Center and La Yunga for students from 10 municipalities that encompass the Amboro National Park or adjacent to it, in support of their academic formation as well as improving their perception of the PA.

To implement these actions, contracts were signed with the administration for Amboro National Park as well as with the NGO Rescate en tus Manos (REMA).

The AP Amboró administration hired an administrator (with a background on environmental education and communication) and a local botany guide for the Interpretation Center

To finalize the co administration of the Interpretation Center, the Director for Amboro National Park met with the mayor of Buena Vista as well as the president for the city council. In addition, in searching for alternatives to promote the sustainability of the Center, the Director for the Protected Area contacted the Peace Corps to request a volunteer. In addition, efforts are being carried forward with FUNDESNAPE in order to implement a financial strategy that includes the production of souvenirs.

To promote the functioning of the Center (in the North) and in La Yunga (in the South), REMA hired necessary staff in order to implement and follow-up with the activities for this reporting period including a project coordinator and field technician.

The selection process for the sixty classes that will receive the prize of a guided tour in the Center and in La Yunga is based on research work carried out on the topic "past,

present and future of my community”, but for those from the city of Santa Cruz the topic was “the use of plants”. The announcement has already been launched.

REMA established a mechanism to ensure the participation and involvement of the educational authorities in the following manner: inviting the 12 district directors from the municipalities to participate in inter-institutional coordination meetings in which they actively participate in activities that include the elaboration of letters, dissemination of announcements and reception and evaluation of work.

Coordinating meetings were held with staff from the Interpretation Center (coordinator for the Center and Director of Amboro National Park) as well as with La Yunga (FAN and guide association), in order to agree upon and elaborate the content and messages that would be provided to the winning students during their visit of the Center and La Yunga as well as arrive at a consensus regarding the work schedule for the guide training.

The dissemination of the announcements was carried out in two ways: via the District Educational Offices and the media (written and verbal). A press conference for the Municipality of Santa Cruz de la Sierra was organized and in which 13 representatives from the media participated.

Activity 3.2.: The initiation of a program for the production and sale of souvenirs from the Protected Area.

A contract was signed with FUNDESNAPE enabling them to implement their program regarding “Positioning, Dissemination and Commercialization” of products from the SNAP as a pilot experience within Amboro National Park through the production of souvenirs. It is expected that this activity will generate income for the Park and that a portion of these funds can be used to pursue the sustainability of the Interpretation Center. On the other hand, Amboro National Park and FUNDESNAPE have been discussing the guidelines to be included in the agreement that would support and back-up these activities.

Objective III: Visualization and Identification of the Value of the Environmental Services Provided by Water Coming from Amboro and Carrasco.

The Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF), with whom a contract has been signed to develop the study, designated a specialist that would dedicate 50% of his time to lead the project. The following represents the progress made:

- a. Gathering and analysis of international bibliography related to the topic with examples from Brazil, Panama and Costa Rica in order to extract successful experiences;
- b. Planning to carry out field work;
- c. Making first contacts with local organizations (FAN and Fundación Natura Bolivia) interested in coordinating and cooperating with field work;
- d. Elaboration of a first outline for the final document to be elaborated.

Table of Final Accomplishments

<u>Benchmark Number</u>	<u>Benchmark/Output</u>	<u>Status*</u>
1.1.	❖ Institutional support for CIDEDER	Delayed
1.2.	❖ Support for the improvement of relations between promoters of the PA and neighboring populations	Delayed
1.3.	❖ Carrying out a baseline diagnosis regarding the social conflicts and thus be able to clearly identify the information needs as well as those for conflict resolution	Delayed
1.4.	❖ Hiring of two (2) farming and animal husbandry technicians as outreach and /or environmental promoters	Delayed
1.5.	❖ A radio information and dissemination campaign regarding the values of the PA but also including programs of technical interest for the local population	Delayed
1.6.	❖ Support the process to obtain legal paperwork	Cancelled
2.1.	❖ CAM Coordinating Committee (CCCAM).	On-track
3.1. 3.2.	❖ Hiring of staff to run the Center and guarantee its operations	On-track
	❖ The initiation of a program for the production and sale of souvenirs from the Protected Area	On-track
4.1.	❖ Visualization and Identification of the Value of the Environmental Service Provided by Water Coming from Amboro and Carrasco	On-track

- Status may include activities that are completed, on-track, delayed, mixed performance, or cancelled.

Project Evolution

Activities are making progress but not as we would like. Our partners and collaborators in the public sector such as DGB and the Cochabamba Prefecture have shown so far that other activities or situations related to their role, might affect their involvement in the actions jointly planned in relation to the CAM.

On the other hand, the agenda of other sectors in relation to conservation and sustainable management of natural resources differs from that of conservation organizations. This is the case with the leaders from the Central Indígena de Morochata, who do not consider the creation of protected areas as a potential or benefit for their productive activities or that it will help them access other economic resources. This type of attitude or position delays activities or even makes them go backwards, such as the case with Altamachi.

The more delayed activities are related to the Altamachi Protected Area, and even more so now that the Prefectural Resolution for its creation has been derogated, a situation that made us define other strategies to prevent the deterioration of the area. Due to the importance of the Altamachi-Cotacajes area from a conservation point of view (regardless if it is or is not a protected area), it should be still considered for activities aimed at the adequate use of natural resources and the conservation of the area. The new strategy to make progress with Altamachi is proposed under this premise, as indicated under Objective I.

In the case of the valorization of Environmental Services of the Amboro and Carrasco National Parks, consideration has been given to articulate the initiative with the two projects already under implementation in the area by FAN and Foundation Natura Bolivia, and in such a way so that a solid team is conformed with the different capacities related to the VSA. Thus, we hope to link an organization with ample experience with the topic such as the CSF, with local organizations such as FAN and Foundation Natura Bolivia, which have an interesting local experience on this same topic.